

23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2003.

**Do gach Comhalta den mBord**

A Chara,

A Special Board Meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in **The Boardroom, St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, Co. Dublin, on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2003 , at 4.00pm.**

Tea and Coffee will be available.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

**M Windle**

---

**PRIOMH FEIDHMEANNACH**

-----

**CLAR**

1. Development Plan for St Ita's Campus.  
(Presentation)

**NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of proceedings of Special Board Meeting  
of the Northern Area Health Board  
held in the Boardroom, St Ita's Hospital, Portrane, Co. Dublin**

**On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2003, at 4.00pm.**

*Present*

Cllr. C. Burke  
Cllr. L. Creaven  
Ms. N. Harvey  
Mr P. Ledwidge  
Cllr. G. McGuire  
Cllr. E. O'Brien  
Cllr J. Stafford

*Non-Voting Participants*

Dr B. Murphy

*In the Chair*

Deputy Dr D. Fitzpatrick

*Apologies*

Mr. M. Cowley  
Cllr. D. Heney  
Cllr. D. Murray  
Dr. J. Reilly

*Officers in Attendance*

Ms M. Windle, Chief Executive  
Mr. M. Walsh, Asst Chief Executive  
Mr. J. Cahill, Asst Chief Executive  
Mr P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive  
Ms. M. Kelly, Director of Human Resources  
Mr S. Mulvaney, Director of Finance  
Mr J. Murphy, Board Secretary

*Other Officers in Attendance*

Ms. B. Kelly, Secretariat  
Dr R. Blennerhassett, St Ita's Hospital  
Mr L. Woods, ERHA  
Ms Barry Lawless, ERHA  
Mr M. Ridge, W K. Nolan and Associates  
Ms S. Desmond, DEGW, plc.  
Mr G. Maguire, Project Manager, St Ita's

**83/2003**

**Proposed Site Development Plan, St Ita's Hospital**

The Chief Executive introduced the proposed "Site development and disposal strategy for St Ita's Hospital", prepared by WK Nolan, Associates and DEGW plc, and outlined that The Health Strategy "Quality and Fairness" whilst acknowledging the significant injection in capital from the National Development Plan 2000-2006 also recognised the need for further investment and acknowledged that many of the buildings currently in use are old, poorly maintained and overall in bad repair.

It has also been long recognised by both our Board, the ERHA and the Department of Health and Children that a substantial capital investment is needed to put in place across all service programmes a modern and quality infrastructure which meets the needs of the clients /families using the service and staff delivering the health service. The enhancement and development of a range of services in the community for the client group particularly for mental health, physical, intellectual disability; older mentally ill etc. is a priority for our Board.

Taking into account the overall Exchequer current position and the many complex demands for resources our Board with the ERHA are currently engaged in a review of the health asset base in the region with the objection of identifying optimum return from those assets, and identifying assets which could be disposed of and the value reinvested

One of the most significant assets in the portfolio of capital assets in the region is St Ita's Hospital and the surrounding land. To determine the potential from the development /realisation of the St Ita's complex I commissioned experts to carry out a preliminary scoping study. The initial phase of this study has taken into account how the site might be best utilised having regard to existing zoning and protection of individual buildings. Consideration as to potential for commercial development which would maximise value for money (and minimum capital cost to the exchequer) which could be re-invested in developing priority services was a specific requirement. (Copy of report prepared by WK Nolan, Associates and DEGW filed with official minute).

There followed a presentation by the Assistant Chief Executive, Special Projects, with inputs from representatives of the joint consultants.

Following discussion to which Cllr Stafford, Cllr Burke, Cllr McGuire, Mr Ledwidge, Ms Harvey, Cllr O'Brien, Dr Murphy and Deputy Dr Fitzpatrick contributed, and to which the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and WK Nolan and DEGU plc representatives responded the report was adopted in principle. It was agreed to submit a proposal on the development plan for St Ita's Hospital to Fingal County Council, before 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2003, to be included in the Fingal County Development Plan. A consultation process with staff and service users on the plan would also be initiated.

Standing orders were suspended for Chief Executive's report on other matters not on the agenda

**84/2003**

## **SERVICE MATTERS**

### *Additional Funding*

Michael Martin, T.D, Minister for Health and Children, announced in a press release dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2003. an additional allocation of €5.5m to the Eastern Regional Health Authority and the Southern Health Board to facilitate the Boards in accessing appropriate care packages for patients currently occupying acute beds but whose acute phase of treatment is over.

Our Board is in discussion with the Eastern Regional Health Authority in respect of Our Boards proportion of this funding, and with a view to agreeing terms for the application and allocation of this additional funding, with a view to facilitating discharge of the patients from acute beds to appropriate facilities.

### *St Joseph's Hospital, Raheny*

All of the issues relating to Staffing, Infrastructure and other contractual issues arising out of the acquisition of St Joseph's Hospital, Raheny, have been addressed. It is our view that the future of St Joseph's is best positioned through an alignment with a larger Acute Hospital (i.e. Beaumont).

This alignment would offer many advantages for clinicians, nursing and para-medical services, as well as other economic benefits, (e.g. pharmacy, laboratory and other diagnostic facilities).

There is a recognised and clear need for the development of rehabilitation services in this area, and the designation of a number of beds at St Joseph's Hospital as rehabilitation beds would be a factor in facilitating the discharge of patients from acute beds at Beaumont, to their homes.

I have already had discussions with the Eastern Regional Health Authority and the Department of Health and Children in relation to this issue. A more detailed report will be brought to the September meeting of Our Board.

***Verville Retreat***

Members will be aware of our concerns with regard to the suitability of Verville Retreat, Vernon Avenue, for the delivery of long stay care to 37 frail elderly mentally ill patients.

Verville retreat was originally built in the 1700's and consists of 3 floors over basement. This building is unsuitable for it's current use (i.e. no lifts, roof requiring repair, concerns re heating, insulation and fire safety etc.).

I wish to advise members of my intention to make alternative arrangement off site for both patients and staff at Verville Retreat, with a view to providing appropriate, quality care to the residents.

The meeting concluded at 5.30pm.

**M. WINDLE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

---

**DEPUTY DR D. FITZPATRICK  
CHAIRMAN**

**30<sup>th</sup> July, 2003**